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AMUSEMENTS TODAY.

Salt Lake—"In the Bishop's Carriage."
Orpheum—Matinee and night, vaudeville.
Lyric—"Why Women Sin."
Grand—"Josh Perkins."

WEATHER FOR SALT LAKE.

Snow.
THE METALS.
Silver, 69¢ per ounce.
Copper (cast), 23¢ per pound.
Lead, \$1.75 per 100 pounds.

ON PUBLIC LAND LAWS.

An executive message on the status of the public lands reached congress yesterday, containing comment on the need of change in laws for the public domain, the forest reserves, grazing and co-ordinate subjects. While several radical changes in existing laws are recommended, there is an unusual and notable lack of startling suggestions.

Of most interest to Utah is the section of the message devoted to the coal lands. After commenting on the need of revision, the president urges the repeal of the timber and stone act because, he says, "it has done enormous harm" and "its effect has been to turn over the public timber lands to great corporations." He also urges the repeal of the provision of the desert land act which permits assignment before patent, and advises a provision that the entryman should be required to live not less than two years at home on the land before patent issues. Revision of the commutation clause is also advised, and actual residence on the land for three years is proposed before commutation can be permitted.

Expressing his concern at the frauds which have taken place under existing land laws, he says there is only one way to prevent fraud and he has, therefore, directed the secretary of the interior to allow no patent to be issued under any law until an examination on the ground shows actual compliance with the law. For this purpose an allowance of additional special agents is requested for the department, both to prevent fraud and to expedite the issuance of patents for bona fide settlers. Further, he recommends the employment of mining experts to examine mineral lands and to undertake the supervision and control of the use of mineral lands.

Discussing the coal lands, the president says the present law limiting entry to 160 acres puts a premium on fraud by making it impossible to develop certain coal fields and yet comply with the law. That fact has been understood and commented on in Utah and the west for years. No field in the west could be developed profitably on a limit of 160 acres for one entry, and the law should be amended to permit the legal acquisition of bodies of coal land large enough to invite investment and development. The further recommendation of the president that provision should be made for leases of coal, oil and gas rights under certain restrictions is a knotty problem, involving as it does state lands and local conditions that would complicate the question. There can be no doubt, however, as to the necessity for some arrangement that will permit the successful exploitation of the coal lands of Utah and Wyoming. The present workings hardly suffice to give the railroads their own fuel and the withdrawal of all coal lands from entry has made it impossible for individuals or companies other than the railroads to undertake development.

Forestry reserves, which are treated separately, have become an asset instead of an expense; and the president recommends the loan of \$5,000,000 to the forestry department, the sum to be repaid in annual installments from the forestry revenues, and the whole applied to permanent improvements such as roads, telephone lines, quarters for rangers and other necessary equipment.

After setting forth the workings of the forestry grazing regulations, the message recommends that the same system be applied to the open range. In this connection, the president says:

"Reasonable fencing which promotes the use of the range and yet interferes neither with settlement nor with other range rights, would be thoroughly desirable if it were legal, yet the law forbids, and this law will and must be enforced. I will see to it that the illegal fences are removed unless congress at the present session takes steps to legalize proper fencing by government control of the range."

On its face this looks like a proposal to legalize some of the fencing that has taken in large areas of government land in Wyoming, Idaho and possibly Utah, and which has been notoriously in violation of the law for years. If the government is to permit some and forbid other fencing of government lands, the man with little or no influence at Washington is due to give up the fight he has made to protect himself from the fraudulent enclosures that have made homesteading a farce in some sections of the west and put the large cattlemen and corporations in control of the public range.

Altogether the message is a rational, mild document, compared with some from the same source. Its suggestions are along the line of needed reforms and some of them are badly needed. Like the several other messages due this week, no action is possible until later in the session, but the plans outlined ought to furnish plenty of material for thought and ultimately result in beneficial changes in the law.

PURE FOOD REFORM.

A proviso of the urgent deficiency bill introduced this week includes funds for the enforcement of the pure food law passed at the last session of congress and effective on Jan. 1 next. It is expected this section of the bill will pass both houses without debate, and so make certain the effective working of the law.

In the general discussion of legislation the importance of the pure food law and its effect on the food manufacturers have passed without adequate appreciation. Although the necessity for such a law had long been recognized by those familiar with the extent of food adulteration, the general public had not appreciated the gravity of these adulterations or their menace to public health. It is safe to say that few foods were uniformly pure throughout the country. Indeed, when the congressional committee finished its investigation of the subject the enormity of the evil disclosed was appalling. Not only were common articles of diet adulterated to reduce the cost of manufacture, but many of them were compounded with preservatives of a class and quantity that endangered the lives of consumers. Even where death was not threatened by their use they impaired health and not infrequently were the source of serious illness.

Now the law prescribes that the nature of a food used in interstate commerce shall be distinctly stated on the label, and that the amount and kind of preservative introduced shall be shown with other ingredients. Not only will this prevent the use of poisonous materials, but it will compel manufacturers to show what adulterations, if any, are used in their products.

As noted in The Herald, an instance in point is the ice cream which has been put out as "cream" by the large manufacturers. The average brand contained corn starch, glue, gum tragacanth and other "fillers" which were used to give the "cream" body and, incidentally, to give the maker a dishonest profit on his goods. Such "cream" as was used was below the standard of good milk in butter fats, and the entire product was an indigestible mass that would give an ostrich appendicitis; and yet the makers of this awful prescription had the effrontery to ask leniency at the hands of the pure food commission.

Whether the enforcement of the national law will bring about a reform in products made exclusively for use within each state, is debatable; but in any event, it will open the eyes of the consumers, give them protection from frauds in interstate products and pave the way for more effective state supervision of purely domestic foods.

A HANDSOME EDITION.

The Christmas edition of The Deseret Evening News was a very handsome publication indeed. For some years the News has been getting out annually a Christmas edition, and each year the effort of the preceding year is surpassed. The record is kept up this year. The Christmas, 1906, News contains 112 pages, exclusive of the four cover pages, the latter being in colors. From beginning to end the edition is a credit to our afternoon contemporary and to the city. The hundreds of illustrations are all that could be desired and, with the matter in the edition, makes the paper well worth preserving and well worth distributing among outside friends.

An inquirer wants to know whether a slide trombone is a musical instrument or an instrument of torture. The answer would seem to depend on one's proximity to the instrument. At a distance of, say, ten miles, it might be classed as a musical instrument, at close range an instrument of torture.

An Indiana man has just passed more or less peacefully away after smoking 100 cigarettes a day for more than thirty years. The doctors say the cigarettes killed him. The really remarkable feature of the case is that he lived as long as he did.

It is reported that the czar would like to have Count Witte return to power. The Russian treasury must be nearly empty again.

The Baltimore Sun wants to know why grafters should seek office? Why does a small boy enter an apple orchard at harvest time?

NOT WHAT SHE MEANT.

(Figure.)
"How old is your husband, dear?"
"Forty; there's a ten years' difference between us."
"You surprise me! I should never have thought you were 50 years old."

SOCIETY

The Juniors of the university are making extensive preparations for the junior promenade which takes place on Feb. 8. A meeting was held yesterday and the various committees reported. The gymnasium has been secured from the athletic council in order to accommodate the crowd.

The colors to be used in the decorations are green and white, and the Juniors have a number of original ideas to carry out this scheme. Aside from the regular decorations of the hall, each fraternity and society of the school will have booths. This will be the third annual junior promenade, the social event of college life at the school.

Mrs. J. Wolcott Thompson will entertain this afternoon at a bridge tea. Mrs. Ledyard M. Bailey will give a musicale this afternoon at the first of a series of two affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Walker entertained a party of friends at a dinner Wednesday evening.

Clarence Bamberger, Harold Lamb and William McIntyre reached home yesterday for the holidays.

The Misses Daisy and George Savage, who are in the Martha Washington seminary, will spend the holidays in Pittsburgh.

C. W. Whitley will entertain at a dinner next Thursday evening at the Alta club, to about a dozen or so of his friends.

Mrs. J. R. Walker is spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Walker at their country home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Odell will leave this morning for New York to be gone over the holidays.

Samuel Newbush has gone to New York on a business trip.

Mrs. M. L. Regua will entertain her friends at an informal tea this afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Fenton, who have spent the past two months in Chicago, will be home about the first of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Tarbet, who are now in New York, are rejoicing over the birth of a son who came to them three weeks ago. Mrs. Tarbet and the small boy will be home early in the year.

Dr. and Mrs. Keogh have moved and are now in the new home at 134 E. street.

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Woolley have moved and are now at 242 Brigham street.

The Woodmen of the World will give a children's Christmas tree and entertainment Thursday evening in their hall on West Temple street.

Sidney Bamberger left yesterday for an eastern trip, going by way of St. Louis and Birmingham, Ala., where he will attend the wedding of a classmate, and thence to New York.

The enlisted men of Fort Douglas have changed the night for their week-end dance from Thursday to Wednesday, and they will give their dance tomorrow evening at the post hall.

Mr. Bottsford and Miss Josephine Bottsford have returned from Wyoming, and will be at home together with Mr. Bottsford at the Kensington on North Main, shortly.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blyth of Evanston, Wyo., are guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Blyth for a few days.

Mrs. W. C. Ryan is now at home at 137 East First South street.

Miss Frances McChrystal, who has been attending boarding school at Notre Dame convent, San Jose, has returned to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. McChrystal.

Master Arthur McChrystal, who was operated on Dec. 7 at St. Mark's hospital, is improving rapidly and will return home in a very few days.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.
3384—John McClay, Murray.
3385—Agnes M. Tume, Murray.
3386—Robert E. Runswick, Salt Lake.
3387—Ellen Nora Silver, Salt Lake.
3388—Walter Dyer Watson, Murray.
3389—Arabella A. Anderson, Salt Lake.
3390—Charles Guest, Mill Creek.
3391—Florence Frankland, Mill Creek.
3392—Fred J. Heath, Sugar City, Ida.
3393—Emma C. Calhoun, Rexburg, Ida.
3394—Assael W. Kartchner, Provo.
3395—Rosa Heath, Salt Lake.

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The fine pictures that are sold at the Held Engraving Co., 62 Main.

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Place Your Order With The Busy Corner

It will be appreciated all right—so out of the ordinary, so refined and dainty are these baskets that they will all be gone before Christmas eve. They were last year. The shipments will be here in a day or two.

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FOR WOMEN

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Is that defined as you would define it? Then we believe you will find our collection of gift things of more than passing interest.

With a gift thing from our shop you offer but one tribute—your sentiment toward the person favored. We exact none. Whatever may commend the gift beyond its intrinsic and absolute worth—the novelty, the beauty or the exclusiveness—does not influence our prices. They are very modest.

We feel gratified beyond measure at the cordial interest shown during our first four months, and extend sincere thanks to all visitors and patrons.

We wish to say at the same time that this store will aim to establish a new center of styles and values for women's apparel.

We are catering to women in quest of correct dress at economical cost.

The Charlton Special For Xmas

EVENING COATS.—We offer the remainder of our elegant Evening Coats and Wraps at a greatly reduced figure this week. If you contemplate on buying your wife an elegant Christmas present, come in and see our Evening Coats.

Handkerchiefs For Xmas

Few presents one can give more useful or acceptable than a half-dozen handkerchiefs in a neat box. We are also showing a very complete line of Women's Handkerchiefs, from the plain to the finest quality, all put up in neat boxes specially for Xmas trade. Prices from 50c up to \$2.50 each.

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and
The Home Fire Insurance Company of Utah.

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